

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1, 10, 11, 23, 32, 33 and 45 as follows. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus comprising:
status acquisition means for acquiring a status of said apparatus or a
program executed therein;

status concept instance generating means for generating a status concept
instance from the status of said apparatus or the program acquired by said status acquisition
means;

a plurality of input means for inputting different types of information;
storage means for storing information input from each of said plurality of
input means with an input time thereof;

sorting means for sorting at least two types of information stored in said
storage means in an order in accordance with the input time; and

input ~~analyzing~~ concept instance generating means for ~~analyzing~~ generating
an input concept instance from a sequence of the at least two types of information sorted in
the input time order by said sorting means; and

concept instance unifying means for unifying the status concept instance and
the input concept instance.

2. (Original) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein said input analyzing means includes:

input information concept instance generating means for generating a concept instance from each piece of the input information; and

concept instance unifying means for unifying a plurality of generated concept instances.

3. (Previously Presented) An information processing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the concept instance includes a type of a slot and an instance corresponding to the type of the slot.

4. (Previously Presented) An information processing apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising:

a database for storing the input information and information necessary for generating the concept instance, in one-to-one correspondence; and

retrieving means for retrieving information necessary for generating the concept instance corresponding to the input information from said database,

wherein said input information concept instance generating means generates the concept instance in accordance with the information retrieved from said database.

5. (Previously Presented) An information processing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said database stores a concept type, a rule necessary for the concept instance, and a rule necessary for a surface layer word, respectively, corresponding to a surface layer character string.

6. (Previously Presented) An information processing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said unifying means unifies the concept instances in accordance with the rules stored in said database.

7. (Original) An information processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said database stores, as a definition of a concept, a slot type of a slot which the concept instance can have, and a rule which is required to be satisfied by the instance corresponding to the slot.

8. (Original) An information processing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said unifying means unifies the concept instances in accordance with the rule designated by the definition of the concept corresponding to the type of the concept of the concept instance.

9. (Original) An information processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said unifying means selects an applicable request in accordance with requirements of a plurality of rules, applies the selected request and unifies the concept instances.

10. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 2, ~~further comprising: state-acquiring 1, wherein said status acquisition means for acquiring a state~~ acquires the status of said apparatus at an input time timing, ~~wherein said input information-concept-instance-generating means generates the concept instance in accordance with the state acquired by said state-acquiring means.~~

11. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1, further comprising ~~state~~ status storage means for storing a past ~~state~~ status, wherein said ~~input information~~ status concept instance generating means generates the status concept instance in accordance with the past ~~state~~ status read from said ~~state~~ status storage means.

12. (Original) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said input means can input key information.

13. (Original) An information processing apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said input means can input character information by converting the key information.

14. (Original) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said input means can input speech information.

15. (Original) An information processing apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said input means can input character information by recognizing the speech information and converting the speech information into character information.

16. (Original) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said input means can optically input image information.

17. (Original) An information processing apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said input means can input character information of the image information by optically recognizing the image information.

18. (Original) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said input means can input hand-written information.

19. (Original) An information processing apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said input means can input the hand-written character information by recognizing the hand-written character information on line.

20. to 22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) An information processing method comprising:
a status acquisition step, of acquiring a status of an apparatus or a program executed therein;

a status concept instance generating step, of generating a status concept instance from the status of said apparatus or the program acquired in said status acquisition step;

an input step, of inputting different types of information by a plurality of input units;

a storing step, of storing information input by in said input step with an input time thereof in a storage unit;

a sorting step, of sorting at least two types of information stored in the storage unit in an order in accordance with the input time; and

an input ~~analyzing~~ concept instance generating step, of ~~analyzing~~ generating an input concept instance from a sequence of the at least two types of information sorted in the input time order in said sorting step; and

a concept instance unifying step, of unifying the status concept instance and the input concept instance.

24. (Previously Presented) An information processing method according to claim 23, wherein said input analyzing step includes:

an input information concept instance generating step, of generating a concept instance from each piece of the input information; and

a concept instance unifying step, of unifying a plurality of generated concept instances.

25. (Previously Presented) An information processing method according to claim 24, wherein the concept instance includes a type of a slot and an instance corresponding to the type of the slot.

26. (Previously Presented) An information processing method according to claim 24, further comprising:

a retrieving step, of retrieving information necessary for generating the concept instance corresponding to the input information, from a database for storing the

input information and information necessary for generating the concept instance, in one-to-one correspondence, wherein said input information concept instance generating step generates the concept instance in accordance with the information retrieved from the database.

27. (Previously Presented) An information processing method according to claim 26, wherein the database stores a concept type, a rule necessary for the concept instance, and a rule necessary for a surface layer word, respectively, corresponding to a surface layer character string.

28. (Previously Presented) An information processing method according to claim 24, wherein said unifying step unifies the concept instances in accordance with the rules stored in the database.

29. (Original) An information processing method according to claim 28, wherein the database stores, as a definition of a concept, a slot type of a slot which the concept instance can have, and a rule which is required to be satisfied by the instance corresponding to the slot.

30. (Original) An information processing method according to claim 29, wherein said unifying step unifies the concept instances in accordance with the rule designated by the definition of the concept corresponding to the type of the concept of the concept instance.

31. (Original) An information processing method according to claim 28, wherein said unifying step selects an applicable request in accordance with requirements of a plurality of rules, applies the selected request and unifies the concept instances.

32. (Currently Amended) An information processing method according to claim 24, further comprising: ~~a state acquiring~~ 23, wherein said status acquisition step, of ~~acquiring a state~~ acquires the status of said apparatus at an input time timing, wherein said ~~input information concept instance generating step~~ generates the concept instance in accordance with the state acquired in said state acquiring step.

33. (Currently Amended) An information processing method according to claim ~~[[24]]~~ 23, further comprising a ~~state~~ status storing step, of storing a past ~~state~~ status, wherein said ~~input information~~ status concept instance generating step generates the status concept instance in accordance with the past ~~state~~ status read in said ~~state~~ status storing step.

34. (Original) An information processing method according to claim 23, wherein said input step can input key information.

35. (Original) An information processing method according to claim 34, wherein said input step can input character information by converting the key information.

36. (Original) An information processing method according to claim 23, wherein said input step can input speech information.

37. (Original) An information processing method according to claim 36, wherein said input step can input character information by recognizing the speech information and converting the speech information into character information.

38. (Original) An information processing method according to claim 23, wherein said input step can optically input image information.

39. (Original) An information processing method according to claim 38, wherein said input step can input character information of the image information by optically recognizing the image information.

40. (Original) An information processing method according to claim 23, wherein said input step can input hand written information.

41. (Original) An information processing method according to claim 40, wherein said input step can input the hand-written character information by recognizing the hand-written character information on line.

42. to 44. (Canceled)

45. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing ~~an~~
a computer-executable information processing program for controlling a computer to
perform information processing, said program comprising:

code for a status acquisition step, of acquiring a status of an apparatus or a
program executed therein;

code for a status concept instance generating step, of generating a status
concept instance from the status of said apparatus or the program acquired by said status
acquisition code;

code for an input step, of inputting different types of information;

code for a storing step, of storing information input by said input code with
an input time thereof in a storage unit;

code for a sorting step, of sorting at least two types of information stored in
the storage unit in an order in accordance with the input time; ~~and~~

code for an input ~~analyzing~~ concept instance generating step, of ~~analyzing~~
generating an input concept instance from a sequence of the at least two types of
information sorted in the input time order by said sorting code; and

code for a concept instance unifying step, of unifying the status concept
instance and the input concept instance.